



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEWS RELEASE

Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Attends Annual Meeting of the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council

(October 8-9, 2018) Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Michael K. Atkinson, along with the Inspectors General from the United States Department of Justice, National Reconnaissance Office, and National Security Agency, attended the annual meeting of the Five Eyes Intelligence Oversight and Review Council (the FIOR Council) held in Canberra, Australia, from October 8-9, 2018. This year's conference, hosted by The Honorable Margaret Stone, the Inspector-General of the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security of Australia, focused on a theme of independence and keeping up with technology.

During the annual meeting, the delegations exchanged information and views on developments in their respective jurisdictions over the past year, the importance of and challenges associated with maintaining institutional independence and keeping up with technology, and best practices to protect whistleblowers and combat unauthorized disclosures of national security information. The conference included a keynote address from Alexander W. Joel, the Chief of the Office of Civil Liberties, Privacy, and Transparency with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), to the Council members as well as senior officials in the Australian and New Zealand intelligence services concerning the importance of encouraging transparency to the largest extent possible to enhance public trust. The FIOR Council members also continued to explore areas during the conference where they could cooperate on reviews and share results where appropriate. At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the FIOR Council members agreed that the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office of the United Kingdom would host next year's annual conference.

The FIOR Council was created in the spirit of the existing Five Eyes partnership, the intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The FIOR Council is comprised of the following non-political intelligence oversight, review, and security entities of the Five Eyes countries: the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security of Australia; the Office of the Communications Security Establishment Commissioner and the Security and Intelligence Review Committee of Canada; the Commissioner of Intelligence Warrants and the Office of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security of New Zealand; the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office of the United Kingdom; and the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community of the United States. The Council members exchange views on subjects of mutual interest and concern; compare best practices in review and oversight methodology; explore areas where cooperation on reviews and the sharing of results is permitted where appropriate; encourage transparency to the largest extent possible to enhance public trust; and maintain contact with political offices, oversight and review committees, and non-Five Eyes countries as appropriate.

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